

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A connector having a housing (20) connectable with a mating housing (10) of a mating connector, the housing (20) comprising:

a lock arm (28) resiliently engageable with a lock (13) of the mating housing (10) when the housing (20) is connected properly with the mating housing (10);

at least one resilient member (50) movable along a connecting direction (CD) of the two housings (20, 10), and resiliently displaceable along a direction (RDD) intersecting the connecting direction (CD), the resilient member (50) being pushable backward by a pushing portion (10a) on the mating housing (10) in the process of connecting the two housings (20, 10);

a biasing member (70) provided between the resilient member (50) and the housing (20) and resiliently compressible while accumulating a biasing force to separate the two housings (20, 10) as the resilient member (50) is moved backward; and

an operable member (40) movable substantially along the connecting direction (CD), the operable member (40) comprising a movable operating portion (80) displaceable between an operable position where the lock arm (28) can be operated to cancel the locked state of the lock arm (28) with the lock (13) and an inoperable position where the lock arm (28) cannot be operated.

2. (currently amended) The connector claim 1, wherein the housing (20) comprises at least one canceling portion (34) for resiliently displacing the resilient

member (50) into a position for canceling a pushed state by the pushing portion (10a) substantially as the housings (20, 10) become connected properly.

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 2, wherein the operable member (40) is assembled with the housing (20) and held against further forward movement.

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim 3, wherein the operable member (40) supports the resilient member (50) so that the resilient member (50) does not move further forward.

5. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the resilient member (50) is made of a metal.

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the pushing portion (10a) is a front-end surface of the mating housing (10).

7. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the operable member (40) is movable substantially in a removing direction of the housing (20) for bringing the movable operating portion (80) to the operable position.

8. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the movable operating portion (80) comprises an operable projection (83) at least partly surrounded by at least one raised portion (46) on the operable member (40).

9. (currently amended) The connector of claim 8, wherein the raised portion (46) comprises a slanted front surface sloped up and to the back.

10. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the operable member (40) is held at the initial mount position by the biasing member (70) so as not to move any further backward with respect to the housing (20).

11. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the movable operating portion (80) can be displaced from the inoperable position to the operable position by successively pressing an operable projection (83) of the operable member (40) after at least partly pulling the operable member (40) to displace the lock arm (28).

12. (currently amended) A connector assembly, comprising:
a mating housing (10) having a pushable portion (10a) and a lock (13);
and

a housing (20) connectable with the mating housing (10), the housing (20) having a resiliently deflectable lock arm (28) engageable with the lock (13) of the mating housing (10) when the housing (20) is connected properly with the mating housing (10), at least one resilient member (50) movable along a connecting direction (CD) of the two housings (20, 10), and resiliently displaceable along a direction (RDD) intersecting the connecting direction (CD), the resilient member (50) being pushable backward by the pushable portion (10a) of the mating housing (10) in the process of connecting the two housings (20, 10), a spring (70) provided between the resilient member (50) and the housing (20) and resiliently compressible while accumulating a biasing force to separate the two housings (20, 10) as the resilient member (50) is moved back, and an operable member (40) movable along the connecting direction (CD), the operable member (40) comprising a movable operating portion (80) displaceable between an operable position where the lock arm (28) can be operated to cancel the locked state of the lock arm (28) with the lock (13) and an inoperable position where the lock arm (28) cannot be operated.